United Nations S/2005/263

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 April 2005

Original: English

Letter dated 21 April 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1596 (2005), in which the Council extended the measures established in its resolution 1493 (2003) to any recipient in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and expanded the Group of Experts established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) while also extending its mandate to 31 July 2005.

The Government of Rwanda looks forward to working constructively with the Committee in pursuit of the tasks outlined in resolution 1533 (2004) and paragraph 18 of resolution 1596 (2005).

The Government of Rwanda, however, reiterates its concern that the Rwanda section of the last report of the Group of Experts was riddled with glaring inconsistencies, deliberate misrepresentation and innuendo. These concerns have been corroborated by the report of the United Nations independent consultant who reviewed the work of the Group of Experts. He concluded that, in the case of Rwanda, the experts did not conduct a thorough investigation and did not meet their own evidentiary standards in many cases, and engaged in a pattern of misrepresenting facts and situations to support their predetermined findings. He also noted that they inexplicably omitted significant information in reporting specific incidents in order to support a predetermined set of conclusions with respect to Rwanda.

You may recall that, in its response to the report of 4 January 2005 of the Group of Experts, the Government of Rwanda raised serious objections about the fact that it had been denied the right to be heard by the Group. Rwandan Government representatives met only briefly with the Group on 23 November 2004 to discuss procedural issues. It was agreed at that meeting that the Group would provide the Government of Rwanda with a questionnaire covering all the issues on which the Group required information for its report. The Government of Rwanda was, however, surprised and appalled that the Group provided it with the questionnaire only on 10 January 2005, six days after it had submitted its report to the Committee.

The Government of Rwanda believes that the poor methods of work and lack of integrity and transparency that characterized this Group suggest that its appointing authority and the Security Council should take appropriate measures to

05-31769 (E) 220405

ensure that the mandate assigned to that Group is strictly fulfilled in a professional and non-prejudiced manner.

The Government of Rwanda is dismayed that, while the Council resolution "Demands that all parties and all States cooperate fully with the work of the Group of Experts", it remains silent about the fact that the Group must cooperate with all States, and should exercise the highest standards of integrity, fairness and transparency in conducting its work.

In this respect, we would like to strongly reiterate the request expressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda in his letter addressed to the Secretary-General on 15 April 2005, that the experts' reports be subjected to an independent and transparent review.

We request that this letter be circulated to the Chairman and all members of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004), and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Stanislas **Kamanzi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative